

The Townhomes of St. Andrews Woods Association

C/O The H & J Company of Columbia
P. O. Box 90425
Columbia, South Carolina 29290

November 27, 2012

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Clerk's Office
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 20211

Re: Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, LLC
Docket No. 2012-94-S

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SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Dear Sir; Madam:

As President of St. Andrews Woods Town-Homes Association, I wish to extend this letter as our official notification opposing the rate increase proposed by Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, LLC.

Our Association consists of 108 members who will be affected by this rate proposal that more than doubles the current rate. Having worked with so many of our struggling owners, I have seen the tremendous impact that this depressed economy has had in the rise of foreclosures and late dues.

The Town-Homes of St. Andrews Woods is a 1974 Planned Urban Development of relatively low valued townhomes that have declined exponentially in today's market. The Association, in accordance with its BY-LAWS is mandated to perform an array of maintenance upkeep on behalf of the owners. As a result of the economy, increases in foreclosures and delinquent dues, as well as declining home values, have made it extremely difficult to carry out those mandates. There's no doubt that an additional combined monthly sewer cost of \$1800 will have dire consequences for the Association.

Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, LLC based its excessive request on the poor condition of the system at the time of acquisition. They further indicate that the reason for the dilapidated condition resulted from a lack of SC Regulatory Authority efforts to impose stringent compliance demands upon the previous owner, Alpine Utilities. If this is the case, the question becomes "why was Alpine Utilities allowed to operate for so many years without enforcement". Secondly, was the poor state of the system factored into the purchase price from Alpine Utilities? Thirdly, could it be that Palmetto Wastewater, LLC benefited from the purchase price of the dilapidated system and now anticipates the consumer to bear all of the improvement cost.

However, in the final analysis, the ultimate decision is your hands. Hopefully your decision will reflect the best interest of the consumers. We hope and pray that a more equitable rate increase will be imposed.

Yours truly,



Isaiah Johnson, President

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